Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)

2. (New) A computer-implemented method of creating a semantic object representing a target referent, the method comprising:

   identifying a target referent;

   creating a semantic object to represent the target referent in a computer system having stored therein a plurality of semantic objects representing respective target referents, the semantic object being created using a semantic object type selected from an ontology of semantic object types;

   including in the created semantic object content relating to the target referent;

   analyzing the content relative to content in at least one of the plurality of semantic objects; and

   creating an association between the created semantic object and any of the at least one of the plurality of semantic objects based on the analysis.

3. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising assigning one of multiple lifecycle stages to the created semantic object.

4. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 3, wherein the multiple lifecycle stages include at least: a draft stage, an active stage, an inactive stage and a deleted stage, further comprising subsequently transitioning the created semantic object from one of the multiple lifecycle stages to another.

5.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the created semantic object has multiple slots, further comprising receiving an input that defines at least one of the slots as required and at least another one of the slots as optional.

6.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising applying, when the created semantic object is shared with a user, a default rule (i) to share the at least one required slot with the user; and (ii) not to share the at least one optional slot with the user.

7.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising receiving a specific designation that the at least one optional slot is to be shared, and sharing the at least one optional slot in response to the specific designation.

8.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 5, further comprising:
          receiving a user modification of the created semantic object that changes
at least one of the multiple slots as defined in the semantic object type; and
          storing the received user modification as an extension of the semantic
object type.

9.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, further comprising:
          storing multiple extensions based on user modifications; and
          ranking the multiple extensions by popularity.

10.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 8, further comprising:
          storing multiple extensions based on user modifications; and
          ranking each slot in the multiple extensions by popularity.

11.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising exchanging information about the ontology using the semantic object.

12.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising
        extracting at least part of the content from the target referent before inclusion in
        the created semantic object.

13.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 12, further comprising
        subsequently determining that the referent target has been revised and updating
        the created semantic object using the revision.

14.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 12, wherein the extraction is
        part of a data mining performed on selected resources.

15.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising sharing
        the created semantic object with a user and updating the created semantic object
        to reflect a change made by the user.

16.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the semantic
        object is created essentially simultaneously with creation of the referent target.

17.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 14, wherein at least one of
        the creation of the semantic object and modification of the created semantic object
        is triggered by any event selected from the group consisting of:
                saving a document or data item;
                creating a document or data item;
                opening or viewing a document or data item;
                modifying a document or data item;
                transmitting a document or data item;
                receiving a document or data item;
                deleting a document or data item; and
                integrating documents or data items with existing file servers, databases or
        search engines.

18. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the created semantic object can be relocated in the computer system, further comprising ensuring that the created semantic object and the referent target are not separated.

19. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 18, further comprising:

maintaining a table of mappings between the plurality of semantic objects and the respective target referents; and

further providing a daemon that watches for changes and updates the association table accordingly.

20. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising:

creating a linking semantic object between the created semantic object and at least another one of the plurality of semantic objects; and

assigning a confidence value to the link that represents an estimation of the linking semantic object's correctness.

21. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising:

creating a linking semantic object between the created semantic object and at least another one of the plurality of semantic objects; and

folding the created linking semantic object into at least one of the created semantic object and the at least another one of the plurality of semantic objects.

22. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising embedding the created semantic object in the referent target.

23. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising creating a link between the created semantic object and any of the at least one of the plurality of semantic objects, the created link having a type specified by a rule.

24. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a query created by a user;

creating a view that stores the received query;

creating a view semantic object that represents the view; and

sharing the created view semantic object with at least another user in the

computer system.

25. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 2, wherein the semantic

object is created in a process of matching offers and requests, the offers

represented by offer objects and the requests represented by request objects, and

wherein the offer objects and the request objects are semantic object that include

(i) metadata defining particulars of the offers and the requests, and (ii) payload

data.

26. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 24, wherein metadata is

maintained using an approach selected from:

storing offer or request metadata in metatags in the created semantic

object;

creating a separate semantic object and storing the offer or request

metadata in the created separate semantic object, and wrapping the created

semantic object using the created separate semantic object; and

creating a separate semantic object and storing the offer or request

metadata in the created separate semantic object, and creating a reference pointer

between the created semantic object and the created separate semantic object.

27. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 24, further comprising:

test posting the created semantic object to provide an estimate of a number

of matches; and

providing for revision of the created semantic object based on the test

posting.

28. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 26, wherein a user provides

example semantic objects that are test posted and evaluated, further comprising

generating an optimized semantic card specification based on the test posting.